

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00734 161105Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 STE-01
/037 W

-----111389 161122Z /23/50

R 151415Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5988
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0734

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REFERENCE LINE CORRECTED)

DEPT FOR UNDERSECRETARY READ

ROME FOR AMBASSADOR GARDNER

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, IT
SUBJECT: PURCHASE FOREIGN MADE VEHICLES FOR REASON OF SECURITY

REF: A) DEPT 121819 B) MILAN 542

1. FURTHER TO MY MESSAGE OF QUESTIONING ADEQUACY OF ARMORING
NOW INSTALLED IN CONSULATE VEHICLE, I HAVE HAD WINDOW PANEL
REMOVED FROM OFFICIAL VEHICLE TESTED WITH AMMUNITION BEING USED
BY TERRORISTS LOCALLY.

2. DEPT OF JUSTICE OFFICER (SAIC-DEA) CARRIED OUT TEST ON
LEXAN PANEL FIRING FROM 15 YARDS DISTANCE WITH PISTOLS USING
9 MM PARABELLUM AND 38 SPECIAL CALIBER ROUNDS. WHILE LEXAN
STOPPED ALL 38 SPECIAL CALIBER ROUNDS, ALL OF THE 9 MM CALIBER EASILY
PASSED RIGHT THROUGH PANEL. ACCORDING TO SAIC, EXPERIENCED
POLICE OFFICER, LOCAL TERRORISTS ARE USING 9 MM PARABELLUM
CALIBER COPPER JACKETED AMMUNITION USUALLY FIRED FROM
AUTOMATIC WEAPON WHICH GIVES EVEN HIGHER VELOCITY (AND
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THEREFORE PENETRATION) THAN THOSE FIRED FROM PISTON.

3. I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT 9 MM RUOUND IS SAME AMMUNITION
WITH WHICH DEPT HAS TESTS MADE ON ARMORING PROPOSED FOR
LOCALLY ARMORED VEHICLE AT 20 FOOT DISTANCE RATHER THAN
45 FOOT EMPLOYED IN OUT TEST OF LEXAN. WHILE ARMORED
GLASS WHICH WE PROPOSED ONLY SPALLED, LEXAN COMPLETELY

FAILED ON 9MM ROUNDS.

4. WHILE TEST CONDITIONS MAY HAVE DIFFERED AND OUT PANEL
MAY HAVE BEEN DEFECTIVE, I BELIEVE OUT EXPERIENCE JUSTIFIES
NEW LOOK AT ADEQUACY OF RETROFITTED ARMORING WITH WHICH
WE ARE PROVIDED.FINA

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